



Wychwood Benefice

Church News 13 December, 2020

Our Vision: To build God's Kingdom here on earth as in heaven

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER – ADVENT 3

9.30am Milton Holy Communion Church Service

11.00am Shipton Holy Communion Church Service

11.00am Fifield BCP Holy Communion Church Service

We will post a recording of one of the services on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday. It will be available on the website on Monday. [youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice](https://www.youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice)

There is an online service from the Diocese at 10am each Sunday. The order of service and links to view/listen are posted on Saturday:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19-2/livestream/>

PRAYERS AND READINGS

Collect God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Post Communion We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Constant in prayer, Christians are urged to accept the Spirit's guidance with joy and gratitude, seeking to do good as they await the Lord's coming.

Gospel John 1:6-8. 19-28

Introduced as a witness to the light, John identifies himself as one who prepares the way for the promised Messiah, already present but not yet recognised.

Prayer List: Hostage John Cantlie, Marian Clark, Meriel Brooke, Richard Adams, Emma Bradford, Shauni McGregor and Robert Arlott.

R.I.P.: Pamela Hearn.

Deanery: 13 December: St Mary's, Chipping Norton. Please pray for James Kennedy, David Salter, Ursula Simpson, Roger Simpson, Gareth Harper, Toby Artis

Judith Marshall, Graham Povey and Tim Woolcock.

Intercessions: In our prayers we are particularly praying for all in our care homes - Tall Trees, Old Prebendal and The Paddocks; and all the elderly in our villages. We also pray for our school – for the teachers and staff and all the children. We are also praying for the work of the foodbank.

Notices

December Diary of Services & Events:

- ❖ **Midweek Holy Communion 10.30am Milton Church on Wednesday 16 and 23 December.**
- ❖ **11 December Christingle home kits** available in churches and going to all children at school (accompanying video online).
- ❖ **13-20 December Blue Christmas Week.** Our churches are open for all to remember departed loved ones and find space and peace this week. Resources in church will include stars to hang on Christmas trees with the names of loved ones and prayers and reflections.
- ❖ **20 December Blue Christmas Service 9.30 in Milton church** This will be a quiet, simple service for those for whom Christmas is a difficult time of year. It will also be a chance to remember our departed loved ones as well as all those who have been affected by COVID 19, and offer our thanksgiving for all our key workers who have done so much this year.
- ❖ **20 December pre-recorded Crib & Christingle Service online**
- ❖ **20 December pre-recorded Lessons and Carols service online**
- ❖ **20 December: Outdoor Nativity in Fifield 3.45pm** - brought up to date and performed in the grounds of The Old Farmhouse with a cast of thousands (well, ten people). Dress for the weather and being outside. Entry free but a ticket is required for social distancing - contact Catherine Hitchens. After the performance there will be warming drinks and finger food and then the Christmas Raffle will be drawn.
- ❖ **Christmas Eve 11pm Midnight Service in Shipton** (this service will also be posted online for anyone unable to go to church this Christmas).
- ❖ **Christmas Day Services in church:**
 - **9.30am Milton Christmas Communion**
 - **11am Shipton Christmas Communion**
 - **11am Fifield Family Service**
- ❖ **Sunday 27 December 11am United Benefice Service in Milton Church.**

Booking for Christmas Services:

Numbers attending the weekly parish church services have been manageable and so it is not necessary to book places for these.

For the United Benefice Services and Christmas Services (Midnight Mass and Christmas Day) it would be helpful if you can let us know ahead of time. Please email or call Geoffrey or Anne.

Christmas Auction of Promises

Raising much needed funds for Shipton church online until Saturday 12 December! There is still time to bid if you have not yet had chance.

Go to the website to view the lots and register as a bidder by clicking on REGISTER. Or your bid can be placed for you by a member of the fundraising group – contact Kay kay.shortland@oxfordshirewi.co.uk or Anne 07770745621

<https://app.galabid.com/shiptonchurch/items>

Shipton Monthly Prize Draw – £100 prize every month!

We have also just launched a monthly draw starting from £36 a year (£3 a month). To enter the prize draw (£100 prize every month) see details on the website or contact Mary: minifan2@gmail.com

[monthly-draw-shipton-church/](#)

Christmas – lunch in the community

This year with travel plans in question and probable restrictions on meeting up in numbers, it is possible that more members of our community than usual may be facing Christmas alone.

If you hear of someone who may be home alone this year, please can you let Elaine Russell-Jarvie know on 831610 with their name and perhaps a telephone number or address. We will aim to make sure that they are contacted on Christmas Day and offer in advance to deliver a Christmas lunch.

Supporting the Foodbank at Christmas

Christmas donations need to be made by 18 December to local churches or the coop. Look on-line for ways of donating either a one-off gift or a regular payment www.northoxfordshirecommunityfoodbank.org.uk/

We can signpost individuals to collect tokens which they can exchange for supplies via The CAB, Social Services and the GP. Get in touch with Elaine Russell-Jarvie for more details: erusselljarvie@talktalk.net tel 01993 831610

Sunday 20 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am Milton Blue Christmas United Benefice Service
See details above to find out about this service.

We will post a recording of the service on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday. It will be available on the website on Monday. [youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice](https://www.youtube.com/wychwoodbenefice)

First Reading Romans 16:25-end The final verses of Paul's letter are a doxology, and refer in particular to a mystery held secret for centuries, but now disclosed. Through the grace of God, the revelation of Jesus is for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

Gospel Luke 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel, fresh from informing the priest Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to John the Baptist, tells an ordinary Galilean teenager called Mary that she will be the mother of the long-awaited Messiah.

Contact Details

The Benefice Office is currently closed, Clare is working from home and will be checking emails and phone messages Mon – Fri.

Tel 01993 832467 office@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk

Vicar: Rev Geoffrey Clement vicar@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk 01993 832514

Rest Day: Thursday

Rev'd Anne Hartley anne@wychwoodbenefice.org.uk 01993 830160